IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please ADD new claim 23 in accordance with the following:

1-14 (cancelled)

15. (previously presented) A socket for an electrical part having terminals, the socket comprising:

a socket body provided with a mount portion to mount the electrical part thereon, the socket body having a partition wall formed at least partially around the mount portion, the partition wall having slits,

a plurality of contact pins received in the socket body so as to restrict a downward movement of the contact pins with respect to the socket body, each of said contact pins having a springy portion and a movable piece with a movable contact portion connectable to a terminal of the electrical part so as to establish an electrical connection between the contact pin and the terminal; and

an operation member provided for the socket body and vertically movable with respect to the socket body,

each of the slits having a first region with a first width and having a second region with a second width, the first width being less than the second width;

for each of said contact pins, the springy portion fitting within the second region of the slit and the movable piece having the movable contact portion fitting within the first region of the slit,

said movable contact portion being contacted to or separated from the terminal of the electrical part in response to a vertical movement of the operation member,

said springy portion of each contact pin having a width less than the second width.

16. (previously presented) A socket for an electrical part having terminals, the socket comprising:

a socket body provided with a mount portion to mount the electrical part thereon, the socket body having a partition wall formed at least partially around the mount portion, the partition wall having slits,

a plurality of contact pins received in the socket body so as to restrict a downward movement of the contact pins with respect to the socket body, each of said contact pins having a springy portion and a movable piece with a movable contact portion connectable to a terminal of the electrical part so as to establish an electrical connection between the contact pin and the terminal; and

an operation member provided for the socket body and vertically movable with respect to the socket body,

each of the slits having a first region with a first width and having a second region with a second width, the first width being less than the second width;

for each of said contact pins, the springy portion fitting within the second region of the slit and the movable piece having the movable contact portion fitting within the first region of the slit,

said movable contact portion being contacted to or separated from the terminal of the electrical part in response to a vertical movement of the operation member,

said springy portion of each contact pin having a width less than the second width, and

wherein the terminals of the electrical part each have a width greater than the first width of the slits so as to prevent the terminals of the electrical part from intruding into the slits when the electrical part is mounted on the mount portion.

17. (previously presented) A mounted device comprising:

a socket body provided with a mount portion;

an electrical part mounted on the mount portion of the socket body, the electrical part having terminals;

a plurality of contact pins received in the socket body so as to respectfully contact the terminals of the electrical part; and

an operation member provided for the socket body and vertically movable with respect to the socket body,

each of said contact pins being provided with a movable contact piece contacting the terminal,

said socket body having a partition wall formed at least partially around the mount portion, the partition wall having slits into which said movable contact pieces are respectively inserted,

each said movable contact piece being separated from the respective terminal when the operation member is moved vertically with respect to the socket body, the slits formed in the partition wall having a width less than a width of the terminals of the electrical part so as to

prevent the terminals of the electrical part from intruding into the slits.

18. (previously presented) A mounted device according to claim 17, wherein

the contact pins each have an elastically deformable springy portion,

for each contact pin, said movable contact piece has a width less than that of the elastically deformable springy portion.

19. (previously presented) A mounted device according to claim 17, wherein

the slits each have first region into which the movable contact piece is inserted and have a second region,

the first region of said slit has a width less than a width of said second region of the slit,

the second regions of the slits transition to the first regions of the slits with a tapered-shape, and

each said contact pin is tapered so as to be narrower toward the movable contact piece.

20. (previously presented) A mounted device according to claim 19, wherein

the electrical part is mounted above the mount region,

the partition wall extends above and below the mount region,

the first region of the slit extends above the mount region, and

the second region of the slit extends below the mount region.

21. (previously presented) A method of mounting an electrical part having leads, comprising:

moving an operation member in a first direction with respect to a socket body, to thereby move contact portions of contacts pins away from a mount portion of the socket body, the socket body having a partition wall at least partially surrounding the mount portion, the partition wall having slits, the contact portions of the contact pins being inserted into the slits of the partition wall;

placing the electrical part on the mount portion;

moving the operation member in a second direction with respect to the socket body, to thereby move the contact portions of the contacts pins into contact with the terminals of the electrical part; and

preventing the leads of the electrical part from entering the slits in the partition wall by having the slits in the partition wall be narrower than the leads of the electrical part.

22. (previously presented) A method of mounting an electrical part according to claim 21, wherein

the operation member has a cam,

the contact pins respectively have operation pieces that ride on the cam, and

moving the operation member with respect to the socket body causes the operation pieces of the contact pins to move with respect to the cam of the operation member.

23. (new) A socket for an electrical part comprising:

a socket body provided with a mount portion on which an electrical part is mounted;

a plurality of contact pins attached to the socket body so as to restrict a downward movement of the contact pins with respect to the socket body, each of said pins being connected to a terminal of the electrical part so as to establish an electrical connection between the contact pin and the terminal; and

an operation member provided for the socket body to be vertically movable with respect to the socket body,

each of said contact pins being formed with a stationary contact piece having a stationary contact portion contacting a lower surface of the terminal of the electrical part and a moveable piece having a movable contact portion contacting an upper surface of the terminal of the electrical part.